

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-4, 6-8, and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 5 and 9 and add new claims 30-52 as shown in the below
LISTING OF CLAIMS.

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): An isolated ~~The~~ polynucleotide ~~according to claim 2,~~
comprising the nucleic acid sequence ~~as shown in~~ of SEQ ID No. NO: 1.

Claims 6-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): An isolated A polynucleotide ~~sequence according to claim~~
~~1, wherein the polynucleotide codes for~~ which encodes a polypeptide that comprises the
amino acid sequence ~~shown in~~ of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A coryneform bacteria in which the deaD gene is attenuated.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The coryneform bacteria according to claim 10, wherein the deaD
gene is eliminated.

Claim 12 (original): An Escherichia coli strain Top10/pXK99EdeaD deposited as DSM
14464.

Claims 13 (withdrawn): A method for the fermentative preparation of L-amino acids in
coryneform bacteria, comprising:

a) fermenting, in a medium, the coryneform bacteria which produce the desired L-amino acid and in which at least the *deaD* gene or nucleotide sequences which code for it are attenuated.

Claims 14 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, further comprising:

b) concentrating the L-amino acid in the medium or in the cells of the bacteria.

Claims 15 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

c) isolating the L-amino acid.

Claims 16 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein the L amino acids are lysine.

Claims 17 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein *deaD* gene or nucleotide sequences coding for this gene are overexpressed.

Claims 18 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein additional genes of the biosynthesis pathway of the desired L-amino acid are enhanced in the bacteria.

Claims 19 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein bacteria in which the metabolic pathways which reduce the formation of the desired L-amino acid are at least partly eliminated are employed.

Claims 20 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein the expression of the polynucleotide(s) which code(s) for the *deaD* gene is attenuated.

Claims 21 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 20, wherein the expression of the polynucleotide(s) which code(s) for the deaD gene is eliminated.

Claims 22 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein the catalytic properties of the polypeptide for which the polynucleotide deaD codes are reduced.

Claims 23 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein the bacteria being fermented comprise, at the same time, one or more genes which are enhanced or overexpressed; wherein the one or more genes is/are selected from the group consisting of:

- the dapA gene which codes for dihydrodipicolinate synthase,
- the gap gene which codes for glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase,
- the tpi gene which codes for triose phosphate isomerase,
- the pgk gene which codes for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase,
- the zwf gene which codes for glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase,
- the pyc gene which codes for pyruvate carboxylase,
- the mqo gene which codes for malate-quinone oxidoreductase,
- the lysC gene which codes for a feed-back resistant aspartate kinase,
- the lysE gene which codes for lysine export,
- the hom gene which codes for homoserine dehydrogenase
- the ilvA gene which codes for threonine dehydratase or the ilvA(Fbr) allele which codes for a feed back resistant threonine dehydratase,
- the ilvBN gene which codes for acetohydroxy-acid synthase,
- the ilvD gene which codes for dihydroxy-acid dehydratase, and
- the zwal gene which codes for the Zwal protein.

Claims 24 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein the bacteria being fermented comprise, at the same time, one or more genes which are attenuated; wherein the genes are selected from the group consisting of:

- the pck gene which codes for phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase,
- the pgi gene which codes for glucose 6-phosphate isomerase,
- the poxB gene which codes for pyruvate oxidase, and
- the zwa2 gene which codes for the Zwa2 protein.

Claims 25 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein microorganisms of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* are employed.

Claims 26 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 25, wherein the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain DSM5715::pXK99EdeaD is employed.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (withdrawn): A method for discovering RNA, cDNA and DNA in order to isolate nucleic acids or polynucleotides or genes which code for DNA/RNA helicase or have a high similarity with the sequence of the *deaD* gene, comprising contacting the RNA, cDNA, or DNA with hybridization probes comprising polynucleotide sequences according to claim 1.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 28, wherein arrays, micro arrays or DNA chips are employed.

Claim 30 (new): An isolated polynucleotide that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1 and encodes a polypeptide that has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 31 (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 30, wherein said polynucleotide is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 32 (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 30, wherein said polynucleotide is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 33 (new): An isolated polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 34 (new): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 35 (new): An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 36 (new): An isolated polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions comprising a final wash at 68°C, wherein said isolated polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 37 (new): An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 38 (new): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of any of the claims 30 or 33 to 37.

Claim 39 (new): An isolated polynucleotide consisting of at least 18 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 40 (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 39, wherein said polynucleotide consists of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 41 (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 30, wherein said polynucleotide consists of at least 18 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 42 (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 41, wherein said polynucleotide consists of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 43 (new): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 39.

Claim 44 (new): The vector of claim 43, wherein said vector is pXK99EdeaD deposited in Escherichia coli Top/pXK99EdeaD under DSM 14464.

Claim 45 (new): A primer for the synthesis of a polynucleotide in a polymerase chain reaction comprising a DNA fragment consisting of at least 18 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said

polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 46 (new): The primer of claim 45, wherein said DNA fragment consists of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 47 (new): A probe for the detection or isolation of a polynucleotide in a hybridization reaction comprising a DNA fragment consisting of at least 18 consecutive nucleotides selected from SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 48 (new): The probe of claim 47, wherein said DNA fragment consists of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 49 (new): A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claims 30 or 33 to 37.

Claim 50 (new): The host cell of claim 49, wherein said host cell is of the species *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 51 (new): A recombinant host cell of the genus *Corynebacterium* or of the species *Escherichia coli* comprising the vector of claim 43.

Claim 52 (new): The host cell of claim 51, wherein said host cell is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.